

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing amendments, claims 1 and 4-22 are currently pending in this application. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 6, and 8-16 have been amended. New claims 17-22 have been added. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Telephonic Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for conducting a telephonic interview with the Applicants' representatives on September 29, 2006. During the interview, the Examiner said that claim 1 would be allowable over the prior art cited in the May 9, 2006 Final Office Action if Applicants amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 3. The Examiner also suggested that Applicants change "fasten" to "crimp" and "the taper recess" to "crimping".

On October 10, 2006, Applicants informally submitted an amended claim 1 that incorporated claims 2 and 3 and changed the references to fastening and taper recess to crimp and crimping. A few days later, the Examiner called Applicants' representative and said that the amended claim 1 would be allowable over the prior art cited in the May 9, 2006 Final Office Action but that a new search was required.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rinaldi (U.S. Patent No. 4,352,149) in view of Gookin (U.S. Patent No. 2,856,593). The Action found that the method claims 1-8 were inherent.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 3 and claims 2 and 3 have been canceled. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable and the rejection of claims 2 and 3 is moot. Claims 4-8 and 16 depend from claim 1 and therefore, are also allowable.

Claim 9 also incorporates the subject matter of amended claim 1 and therefore, is allowable. Claim 9 is essentially the product claim corresponding to the allowable amended method claim 1. Claim 9 has been amended to recite that a wire can be inserted via the second end of the barrel pin. Claims 14 and 19 depend from claim 9 and therefore, are allowable. In addition, claim 14 has been amended to clearly define that the wiring connection device comprises part of an electrical ballast instead of being used for an electrical ballast.

Claim 15 also incorporates the subject matter of amended claim 1 and therefore, is allowable. Claim 15 simply claims two (2) barrel pins. Claim 15 also claims the unique feature that the barrel pin has a second end into which a wire can be inserted, as in amended claim 1. The unique features that at least three barrel pins are similarly mounted along an edge of printed circuit board are added to the

newly added dependent Claim 22 (which is supported by Figs. 2(a), and 3-4). Claims 20-22 depend from Claim 15 and therefore, are allowable.

Newly added claim 17 also incorporates the subject matter of amended claim 1 and therefore, is allowable. In addition, the electrical connections in the step of “soldering” are more clearly defined, respectively between the barrel pin and the printed circuit board and between the electronic element and the printed circuit board, and the unique features regarding that a wire can be inserted via the second end of the barrel pin is claimed. Claims 10-13 and 18 are dependent from claim 17 and therefore, are allowable.

Finally, in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestions, claims 1, 8, 12, 15 and 16 are amended by replacing “fasten” and “taper recess” with “crimp” or “crimping”. New claims 18 and 20 also use this suggested language.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-16, and allowance of new claims 17-22 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

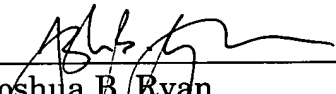
If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that an interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

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Application No.: 10/812,130

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1 and 4-22 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Prompt consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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